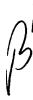


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

6. (Amended) A smart film or material according to claim 2 wherein the discrete areas are provided by a printing process.

- 7. (Amended) A smart film or material according to claim 2 wherein the discrete areas are provided by an etching process.
- 8. (Amended) A smart film or material according to claim 2 wherein the discrete areas and the layer which they cover or all the layers are cut using a laser or a punch.
- 9. (Amended) A smart film or material according to claim 1 wherein the discrete areas and the layer which they cover or all the layers are cut so as to provide at least 3 close fitting flaps through the film or material.
- 10. (Amended) A smart film or material according to claim 2 wherein at least some of the discrete areas are individually surrounded by a further discrete area which has fluid absorption properties different to the rest of the layer, the further discrete area being disposed from the discrete area which it surrounds.
- 12. (Amended) A smart film or material according to claim 1 wherein the layer or one of the layers is substantially impermeable.
- 13. (Amended) A smart film or material according to claim 2 wherein the layer or one of the layers is permeable.
- 14. (Amended) A smart film or material according to claim 2 which forms one element of a multi-element textile.



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6

- 15. (Amended) A smart film or material according to claim 2 wherein the layers have different hydrophilic properties to each other.
- 16. (Amended) A smart film or material according to claim 2 wherein the layer and the discrete areas have different hydrophilic properties.

Please cancel claim 17 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims 18-29.

18. (New) A smart film or material according to claim 1 configured so as to be suitable for use in clothing.

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- 19. (New) A smart film or material according to claim 1 wherein the discrete areas are produced by attaching a material having different fluid absorption properties to the surface of the layer.
- 20. (New) A smart film or material according to claim 2 wherein the discrete areas are areas of the layer which have been plasma treated or treated with chemicals or radiation so as to modify their fluid absorption properties.
- 21. (New) A smart film or material according to claim 1 wherein the discrete areas are provided by a printing process.
- 22. (New) A smart film or material according to claim 1 wherein the discrete areas are provided by an etching process.

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- 23. (New) A smart film or material according to claim 1 wherein the discrete areas and the layer which they cover or all the layers are cut using a laser or a punch.
- 24. (New) A smart film or material according to claim 1 wherein the discrete areas and the layer which they cover or all the layers are cut so as to provide at least 3 close fitting flaps through the film or material.
- 25. (New) A smart film or material according to claim 1 wherein at least some of the discrete areas are individually surrounded by a further discrete area which has fluid absorption properties different to the rest of the layer, the further discrete area being disposed from the discrete area which it surrounds.
- 26. (New) A smart film or material according to claim 25 wherein at least one of the further discrete areas is provided in the form of a hoop.
- 27. (New) A smart film or material according to claim 1 wherein the layer or one of the layers is substantially impermeable.
- 28. (New) A smart film or material according to claim 1 wherein the layer or one of the layers is permeable.



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29. (New) A smart film or material according to claim 1 which forms one element of a multi-element textile.

Respectfully submitted,

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